

World Mission News

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Haiti : Up to 70% of missionary personnel fled Haiti during its latest turmoil when the civil structure broke down completely. Most of them are slowly returning. Some see a silver lining in the chaos. Those who stayed have earned respect as they provided fuel and medical supplies during the crisis and are helping people resume normal life. Police and officials now seek advice from religious leaders about rebuilding as they bring hope to the community.

<Christianity Today, May/04>

Sri Lanka : Renewed violence against Christians has erupted in Sri Lanka. Officials recorded 91 attacks on Christians last year and 41 in the first 4 months of this year. Christians are especially vulnerable in rural areas where Buddhist radicals have shut down 146 churches in 4 months. 8% of the 19.7million population are Christians and they are growing at 11% per year. The radicals are seeking to pass an anti-conversion law while Christians pledge to continue the mission.

<Christianity Today, May/04>

India : The 207,000 Irulars live in the southernmost Indian State of Tamil Nadu. Meaning literally 'people of darkness,' they are of dark complexion deep in the forest as plantation laborers or rice farmers subsisting by selling firewood. Many use alcohol as an escape. 73% of them have never heard the gospel and only 1% are Christians. Recently a young native missionary has led 125 of this tribal people to Christ and planted six mission stations.

<Send!, www.gfa.org, 2nd Quarter/2004>

India : The 4 million Muslims living in the northern Indian State of Kashmir are among the most unreached and unevangelized people groups in the world. In the last five years, through a Bible correspondence course, many Muslim men and women have come in contact with the gospel. Those showing keen interests are invited to attend a seminar led by ex-Muslims. Over 95% of those coming to the seminar make firm commitments to Christ including some village lead-

ers and influential persons in the community. Dozens of Muslims are saved and discipled every year.

<Asia Harvest, www.asiaharvest.org, 4/04>

China : 55 years ago Far East Broadcasting began gospel programs into mainland China. Last year they upgraded with three 100,000-watt short-wave transmitters. Now they broadcast 45.25 hours daily in 6 frequencies covering the entire nation. They started two webcasts last December now averaging 200 hits every day. Since 1979, mainland listeners have been able to send response to the station. Last year, the total reached a high of 21,975. In addition to Mandarin, they broadcast in 7 of the 55 minority languages.

<Far East Broadcasting, www.liangyou.net, 1-2/04>

Jerusalem : Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders around the world are endorsing an annual international "Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem" on the first Sunday day of October, this year on Oct 3. They assert that "Prayer is the only means that will ultimately change hearts in this troubled part of the world." Thousands of pastors have committed their churches to participate in concerted prayer on that day.

<www.DaytoPray.org, 3/18/04>

Russia : As part of the 300-year anniversary celebrations for St Petersburg, Russia, a revival meeting was held at the Olympic Stadium last November. The ensuing spiritual revolution has continued to this day. Each night, the stadium was filled with 25,000 people to experience the ministry of a Korean pastor and his mission team. Evangelical church was persecuted for many years and was attacked even in the last few years. But by the grace of God the country is open to the gospel as never before.

<www.crosswalk.com, May/14/04>

Germany : A German evangelical pastor holds services in health resorts in Vogtland with great results in leading people to Jesus, sometimes 2 or 3 per week, sometimes 20 or 30. "People are saved on various other occa-

sions too: at funerals, on birthday visits, in Bible studies and during personal conversation. Hundreds of them!" A large number of Christian leaders in Vogtland have signed a declaration committing them to support each other and their churches.

<FridayFax, 4/30/04>

Middle East: The film 'The Passion of the Christ' is bringing Jesus to people all over the Middle East. In Bahrain, cinema owners threatened legal action to force the film to be shown after it was initially banned. It broke all records in the UAE where 66,321 tickets were sold in Dubai in the first 3 days. Missionaries said the film reached more Qataris in two hours than they do in five years. One reason for the popularity of the film is that people heard it was anti-Jewish. But audiences are deeply moved by the suffering of Christ and his prayer of forgiveness on the cross. Many now are asking Christian friends for copies of New Testament.

<FridayFax, 4/30/04>

Indonesia : 18 people were known dead and over 100 injured in Ambon, one of the Maluku islands of Indonesia. Christian neighborhoods were attacked and burned by Muslims. The UN Development Program office and the Christian Theological University were burned down. The main Protestant church, Silo Church, was also set ablaze. It was the worst outbreak since 2002 when a peace agreement ended three years of conflict that caused 5,000 deaths.

<CSWUK, www.ipcprayer.org, 4/28/04>

China : Last March, a 100-year-old building housing an unregistered Chinese house church was raided by more than 300 police and destroyed. Arrested were the pastor and his son of this 20-year church of 300 members. Four non-Christian neighbors were also jailed for 15 days when they challenged the authorities and argued against their actions.

<Voice of the Martyrs, www.crosswalk.com, 4/26/04>